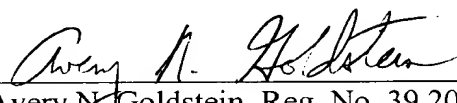


REMARKS

If the Examiner has any questions relating to the application, Applicant's attorney may be reached at (248) 647-6000.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: July 11, 2001

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

- 1 3. (Amended) The microbial preparation according to claim 1 [or 2]
2 further including resistant starch.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

- 1 4. (Amended) The microbial preparation according to [any one of
2 claims] claim 1 [to 3] wherein the resistant starch is type RS1, RS2, RS3 or RS4.

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

- 1 11. (Amended) The microbial preparation according to [any one of
2 claims] claim 5 [to 10] wherein the starch is chemically, physically, and/or
3 enzymically treated or modified.

Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

- 1 15. (Amended) The microbial preparation according to [any one of
2 claims] claim 1 [to 14] wherein in use the microbes are substantially unaffected by
3 stresses including aeration, sheer, freeze drying, freezing, drying including high,
4 medium and low water activity, elevated temperatures, low temperatures, pressure
5 and pressure fluctuations, low pH, high pH, bile acids, moisture, high osmolarity, low
6 osmolarity, high salt, or combinations thereof.

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

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1 16. (Amended) The microbial preparation according to [any one of
2 claims] claim 1 [to 15] being a probiotic, a starter culture, a biocontrol or
3 bioremediation product.

Claim 22 has been amended as follows:

1 22. (Amended) The process according to claim 20 [or 21] wherein the
2 resistant starch is type RS1, RS2, RS3 or RS4.

Claim 29 has been amended as follows:

1 29. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims] claim 23 [to
2 28] wherein the starch is chemically, physically, and/or enzymically treated or
3 modified.

Claim 33 has been amended as follows:

1 33. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims] claim 20 [to
2 32] wherein the resistant starch is used in the media at a concentration of 0.01 to 10%
3 (w/w).

Claim 36 has been amended as follows:

1 36. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims] claim 20 [to
2 35] wherein in use the microbes are unaffected by stresses including aeration, sheer,
3 freeze drying, freezing, drying including high, medium and low water activity,
4 elevated temperatures, low temperatures, pressure and pressure fluctuations, low pH,

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5 high pH, bile acids, moisture, high osmolarity, low osmolarity, high salt, or
6 combinations thereof.

Claim 37 has been amended as follows:

1 37. (Amended) The process according to [any one of claims] claim 20 [to
2 36] wherein the microbial preparation is a probiotic, a starter culture, a biocontrol or
3 bioremediation product.

Claim 41 has been amended as follows:

1 41. (Amended) A microbial preparation having an increased
2 survival/recovery rate in a product prepared by the process according to [any one of
3 claims] claim 20 [to 40].

Claim 42 has been amended as follows:

1 42. (Amended) A product containing microbes having an increased
2 survival/recovery rate, the product including a microbial preparation according to
3 [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 19 or 41].

Claim 49 has been amended as follows:

1 49. (Amended) The product according to [any one of claims] claim 42 [to
2 48] further including resistant starch.

Claim 57 has been amended as follows:

1 57. (Amended) The product according to [any one of claims] claim 51 [to
2 56] wherein the starch is chemically, physically, and/or enzymically treated or
3 modified.

Claim 61 has been amended as follows:

1 61. (Amended) The product according to [any one of claims] claim 49 [to
2 60] wherein the resistant starch is added at a concentration of 0.1 to 90% (w/w) total
3 product.

Claim 72 has been amended as follows:

1 72. (Amended) The use according to [any one of claims] claim 66 [to 71]
2 wherein the starch is chemically, physically, and/or enzymically treated or modified.

New claim 76 has been added.